

Comments

The enclosed is responsive to the Examiner's Office Action mailed on December 21, 2001. At the time of mailing of the aforementioned Office Action, claims 1 through 49 were pending; and, claims 1 through 49 were rejected. In response, the Applicant has canceled claims 1 through 49 without prejudice and has added new claims 50 through 71. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application and the allowance of claims 50 through 71.

With regard to new claims 50 through 71, the Examiner is invited to refer to page 65, line 6 through page 68, line 16 of the present application. Note that the discussion therein makes reference to Figures 45 and 46. In light of the portion of the present application that was highlighted just above; and, with respect to new claims 50 through 71 (as well as canceled claims 1 through 49), note that references are made to a timer that measures a time period over which a ring signal is applied at a telephone interface. Here, after a careful review of U.S. Pat. No. 6,118,864 (hereinafter "Chang et. al."), which was used as a basis of rejection for claims 1 through 49, it appears that Chang et al is lacking with respect to this level of detail. As such, the Applicant believes new claims 50 through 71 to be patentable over Chang et al; and, respectfully, requests the allowance of same.

Applicants respectfully submit the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call Robert O'Rourke at (408) 720-8300.

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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